Nehemiah

Renewal's Leader

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for August 17, 1980
Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1:8-9
Focal Passages: Nehemiah 1:1-6; 8:9-12
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Bad News From The Holy City [Neh. 1:1-3]

When God sets out to accomplish his purposes, he will find the person to "fill the bill." In our study this week we focus on a man whom God sought out to lead in restoring the great city of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah obviously had a deep affection for the people of Judah and their city, Jerusalem. He grew up in Babylon and lived there among the exiles. Babylon had been good to him for he had become wealthy and successful. How could he care for a city with which he had little or no connection with, except for the fact that his parents were natives of Judah?

Surely his parents and the other exiles continually spoke of Jerusalem and their hopes of one day returning to their homeland. Thus, when the news reached Nehemiah concerning the state of the city and its walls, Nehemiah was moved with compassion.

Nehemiah's Response To The Bad News [Neh. 4:4-6:2 1-8]

Nehemiah was a faithful believer in God. He demonstrated his faith through a deep dependence upon God and a belief in the power of prayer. Nehemiah had no reluctance about turning to God when he was experiencing trouble. And Nehemiah not only wept and prayed but he also went without food to further demonstrate his compassion.

Nehemiah's prayer is one that comes forth from the deeper churnings within him. He is utterly devoted to God and expressed his devotion in moving and convincing terms. He calls upon God to hear his prayerful requests and his confessions.

The sins of the people are once again confirmed by Nehemiah, and now Nehemiah includes himself in the prayer for forgiveness. Nehemiah had a plan in mind to rebuild the City of God. When he approached the king (Artaxerxes), the king saw the sadness on Nehemiah's face and asked why he was so down. Nehemiah shares his concern and is granted the king's blessing to return to Jerusalem to oversee the rebuilding of that great city.

The Walls Go Up [Neh. 6:15-16]

It was "Mission Accomplished!" for Nehemiah. Yet, credit was given to God for the successful completion of the project. Nehemiah managed to draw from a variety of skilled persons in rebuilding the city. Everyone got in on the task to rebuild the city that stands today as a shrine to God.

Heeding The Law Of God [Neh. 8:9-12]

Nehemiah was a great leader who sought to lead his people well, and the people loved him for it! He became a symbol of stability and encouragement. Seemingly, the people became so engrossed in rebuilding the city that they neglected their spiritual rebuilding.

Nehemiah, through his insight, sought to change the existing conditions. He instructed the people in the law of God. Upon hearing the Mosaic law reread to them, the people grieved over how far they had removed themselves from the law.

We may easily relate to this story from history. We may become so preoccupied in building that we neglect our needs for personal renewal and rebuilding. That is, we may pour so much energy into physical structures that we neglect our spiritual needs.

Following a storm, people will labor almost endlessly to restore their homes and community. Destruction oftentimes moves people to give more of themselves than under normal circumstances. Following a season of destruction and tragedy, we may need to come together for mutual support and spiritual refreshment.

Working as a chaplain in a hospital several years ago, I saw a man die a violent death due to a reaction to penicillin. He was allergic to that particular drug. The medical team worked for weeks to save the man, but to no avail. Following his death I sensed their frustration and grief. They were literally destroyed by the defeat. I called the staff together to encourage them to share their struggles and to affirm their heroic efforts. They needed to be renewed in the wake of their efforts to save a patient from death and destruction.

The need for renewal and rebuilding is a need we all have from time to time. The "Good Book" offers us guidelines for such renewal and rebuilding.

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Correction

In last week's paper, the starting time for the Pamplin Community Center's Country and Blue Grass show was incorrectly listed as 6 p.m.
The program will begin at 8 p.m. this Friday, according to officials of the Pamplin Community Center.
Entry fee is $3 for adults, $2 for school-age children, and free for pre-school age children.

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The Pastor Speaks

Communication in love

By EDWARD LEONARD
Minister, Memorial United Methodist Church, Appomattox.

What is it you want most to communicate in your life? What is the message you want most to share? Do you wish to let others know you are smart, good looking, powerful, strong, in control? Whether we intend these or wish to give other messages, what is it that people hear us saying? Sometimes what we say and what others see and hear may be two entirely different things.

Jesus says the greatest thing we can communicate is love. It is best shown when lived unselfishly with others. "Greater love has no man (woman) than this, that a man (woman) lay down his (her) life for his (her) friends." (John 15:13)

Yet there is still the need to express that love in words. For just as Jesus showed his love, he spoke it so that his giving would not be misunderstood. Jesus told his followers of God's love and of his love. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:9 & 12)

In the play "Fiddler on the Roof", the husband struggles to have his wife say "I love you." He asks, "Do you love me?" She is vague. Those three words need to be spoken in the marriage and home. They convey the commitment. They also remind the partners of the promise and vows. Those three words spoken give direction to the living relation. Without them relations become casual and cold.

There is also the need to say "I love you" to God. Bishop Roy C. Nichols expresses it beautifully. "Gifts, tokens of affection, warm embraces still leave something lacking until the words are spoken: 'I love you.' These are the most powerful words on earth when uttered with conviction and sealed with unconditional commitment. So I have come to believe that God, who needs nothing, provides for each of us a divine opportunity, a chance to say the words: 'O God, I love thee.' - a manifestation of our warm respect for the one in whom 'we live, and move, and have our being.'"

It was important for Peter to be able to express his love when Jesus asked him three times, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

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Letters express appreciation of small-town life

Editor:

On Saturday evening, Aug. 2, I had the extreme pleasure of witnessing what I hope will be the first of many Depot Playhouse plays.

I came expecting something fairly good, and to say I was pleased is putting it mildly.

The acting was not only great but the whole cast was disciplined and talented.

I marveled at the innovations used in adapting a Broadway play on an Appomattox-size stage. This did not deter from the play, but, rather enhanced it.

The band, though never seen, was outstanding and the musical talent of the stars was close to professional.

The only thing lacking was good props and possibly next time people of the community will donate these to the group.

The fact that a train or two came through and the show took an unscheduled intermission made it unique and added to rather than detracted from the play.

I'd like to publicly congratulate all who took part and say I truly hope this is only the first of many more!

Sincerely
Janet Noble

Having recently moved to Appomattox from a large city, I am learning to appreciate the advantages of a small town.

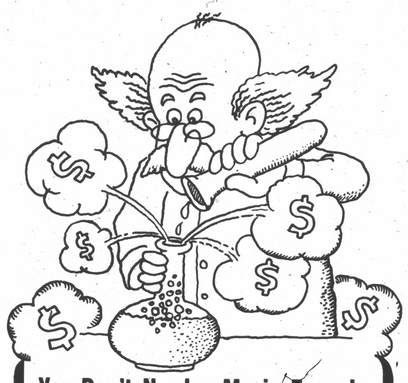
The most recent and pleasant surprise was the **summer recreation program** sponsored by the school board and the athletic department.

Coach Bragg has patiently and skillfully directed an incredible number of boys and girls through baseball, basketball, and currently in weight training.

The program is physically and morally constructive and it provides a positive summer activity for our children.

My thanks also to Jeff Miller, Kevin and Gary Ferguson, and Rick Caldwell fine young men who volunteered their time and efforts.

Rebecca Fox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Miss Vaughan is wed to Mr. Garrett

The marriage of Miss Margaret Vaughan to James Melvin Garrett, took place at Evergreen Baptist Church, Evergreen, Va. on Saturday afternoon, August 2, at 2 p.m.

Rev. Edmond Terry, pastor of the church, performed the double ring ceremony. Mrs. Cecil Kay Harvey provided the organ music.

The bride was attired in a white bridal street length dress, and carried a white Bible topped with an orchid.

The bride was given in marriage by her nephew, James Vaughan.

Mrs. Nedra Baker, matron of honor, wore a blue street length dress and carried a yellow symbidium.

Mr. Richard Sweeney was best man. Ushers were Charles Garrett, and David Vaughan.

A reception was held in the church Fellowship Hall following the ceremony.

After a short wedding trip the couple are making their home in Evergreen, Va.

Miss Clements weds Captain Martin

The marriage of Miss Joy Payne Clements to Captain Herbert Walker Martin (Bunny) took place at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, August 2, in the First Church of Nazarene in Clarksville, Tennessee.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Aileen Payne of Clarksville, Tennessee. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ottway Martin, formerly of Appomattox, now residing in De Land, Florida. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joel W. (Jack) Martin of Appomattox.

Captain Martin is presently serving in the United States Army at Fort Hood, Texas.

Those attending the ceremony from Appomattox were Mr. and Mrs. Joel A. Trent and son, Roy, and Mrs. Virginia Ferguson. Also in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hanson of Pulaski, Virginia.

The newlyweds will make their home in Fort Hood, Texas.

Shower honors Miss McFadden

Miss Vivian Lea McFadden was honored with a miscellaneous shower Friday, August 1, 1980 at Maple Grove Baptist Church.

Honoring Miss McFadden were her sister, Miss Debra McFadden, Miss Joan Robertson cousin of the bride, Mrs. Ouida Adcock, grandmother of the bride and Mrs. Kay Adcock, aunt of the bride.

Guests included Mrs. Ann McFadden, morther of the bride, Mrs. Elizabeth Oxner, mother of the groom, Mrs. Ouida Adcock, grandmother of the bride, as well as relatives and friends.

Miss McFadden's marriage to Larry Oxner will be an event ou Saturday, August 30, 1980 at 7 p.m. at Maple Grove Baptist Church.

Births Announced

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Huffman and A. J., of McGhee, Arkansas are proud to announce the birth of their son and brother, Jason Glen born July 27, 1980 at Monticello, Arkansas. He weighed 8 lbs., 14 ozs. and was 21 inches long.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Grishaw of Evergreen, Va. are the maternal grandparents. Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Beatrice Garrett also of Evergreen.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huffman of Dermott, Arkansas, formerly of Appomattox, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. R. N. McFadden of Gladstone announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Vivian Lea McFadden, to Larry Marshall Oxner.

The wedding of Miss McFadden to Larry Oxner will be an event of August 30, 1980 at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Grove Baptist Church. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Robinson completes basic training

Marine Pvt. Michael J. Robinson, son of Selmon and Cathey Robinson of Box 96, Concord, Va., completed the Basic Aviation Machinist's Mate Jet Engine Course with honors.

During the five week course at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., students received introductory instructions on the characteristics and operating principals of jet engines. Their studies included engine lubrication, ignition and fuel systems. Additionally, they studied the procedures for refueling and defueling aircraft; for removal and installation of aircraft engines and for the operation of aircraft ground handling equipment.

He joined the Marine Corps in December 1979. His wife, Carole, is the daughter of Jean and Ralph Spinner II of Lynchburg.

Singing groups will be at New Hope

"The Sounds of Hope," a singing group of ten young adults from New Hope Baptist Church will be presenting a program of music at Spout Spring Baptist Church this coming Sunday, August 17, at 7:45 p.m.

The group sings some of the old gospel favorites as well as some of the contemporary hymn selections.

Members of the group are Barry Elder, director, Alice Burks, Betty Craft, Teresa Elder, Peggy Goin, Beckie Johnson, Irvin Johnson, Ricky Moore, Tamara Nash, and Wanda Royal.

Spout Spring Baptist Church is located off Rt. 460 in Spout Spring. The pastor of the church is Rev. George Kreidel. The public is cordially invited to attend this special program of music.

Chestnut Grove slates homecoming

The Chestnut Grove Baptist Church of Appomattox will celebrate its annual homecoming day on Aug. 17, with morning and evening services.

Dinner will be served at the church.

The church revival will begin the week of Aug. 17 and continue through Aug. 22.

Guest speaker will be the Rev. P.A. Meaddly of Halifax, Va.

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Miss Dawn Rush of Williamsburg spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Rush of Appomattox.

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Betty Franklin remains in Lynchburg General Hospital this week, receiving treatment for burns she received two weeks ago.

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Mr. and Mrs. Vinnie Volturo and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morris attended the wedding of Rob Shafer and Debbie Hopson in Colonial Heights on Saturday, Aug. 9.

• • •

Mrs. Marie Butler of Louisa and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hamlet of Tampa, Fla., were weekend guests in the home of Mrs. E. B. Harris. While here they attended the Butler-Steinbeck wedding which was an event of Sunday, Aug. 10 at Liberty Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Newcomb, Cindy and Scottie of Poquoson spent the week-end with their mothers, Mrs. S. J. Evans and Mrs. A. C. Newcomb of Lynchburg.

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Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Brown and children have returned to their home in Westerville, Ohio, after spending a week with Mrs. Brown's (June) mother, Sue Johnston of Route 4, Appomattox.

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Lloyd Hudson visited relatives in Clarksville last week.

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Mrs. S. J. Evans is spending this week with her daughter and son-in law; Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Thomas in Newport News and with her daughter and son-in law, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Newcomb of Poquoson.

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